<u>In the Claims:</u>

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 2-20 without prejudice or dedication.

1. (currently amended) A method for acquiring and distributing information regarding architectural decisions to developers of a software system under development, comprising:

     <u>inputting a plurality of questions, wherein said plurality of questions reflect a system design of said software system under development, and wherein said plurality of questions include questions regarding whether a configuration value associated with a component of said software system under development is the same for all users;</u>

     <u>generating a category array in response to said plurality of questions, wherein each element in said category array corresponds to a unique set of answers to said plurality of questions, and wherein each element in said category array contains a corresponding one of a plurality of design guidelines, each of said plurality of design guidelines indicating a name of a corresponding one of a plurality of data stores;</u>

     inputting <u>an</u> ~~at least one~~ operational characteristic of a component of said software system under development<u>, wherein said operational characteristic is said configuration value associated with said component of said software system under development</u>;

     <u>displaying</u> ~~providing~~ <u>said</u> at least one question regarding said at least one operational characteristic;

     inputting at least one answer to said at least one question; ~~and~~

locating~~determining~~, responsive to said at least one answer and said category array, ~~at least~~ one of said plurality of design guidelines related to said at least one operational characteristic, wherein said located one of said plurality of design guidelines is a name of a data store to be used to store said operational characteristic; and

displaying said name of said data store to be used to store said operational characteristic.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)